



APD NEWS

Public Information Office: (512) 974-5017

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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APD Auto and Burglary Theft Prevention Programs during Watch Your Car Month

During "Watch Your Car" month July 2010, the Austin Police Department Auto Theft Interdiction Project along with the Texas Auto Burglary Theft Prevention Authority will focus on auto theft and burglary of vehicle prevention. This year the focus of the campaign is to heighten awareness across Texas about the fines for leaving vehicles unattended while running and leaving keys in the ignition during the hot Texas summer.

Austin Police Officers will drive to convenience stores, gas stations and other places where drivers are known to leave their vehicles unattended while running inside quickly. Officers will remind drivers about the Texas Transportation Code Section 545.404 that makes leaving a vehicle unattended without stopping the engine or removing the key from the ignition illegal.

The Austin Police Department Auto Theft Interdiction Project will offer residents the opportunity to participate in programs designed to promote auto theft and burglary of vehicle awareness. Residents may have their vehicle identification numbers (VIN) etched for free on the vehicle's window and they may also register their vehicle with the Texas Help End Auto Theft (H.E.A.T.) program. APD District Representatives will be available to answer questions or respond to concerns residents may have regarding their communities.

State Farm Insurance funded a Public Safety Announcement for the Austin Police Department Auto Theft Interdiction Project that will run during the month of July at Cinemark Theaters in Southpark Meadows and Gateway Center. The continued partnership between APD and State Farm Insurance is crucial in preventing auto theft and burglary of vehicles in the State of Texas.

The events will take place from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the following locations:

- 07/01/10 Target Southpark Meadows, 9600 S. IH-35
- 07/08/10 ACC Eastview Campus, 3401 Webberville Rd.
- 07/15/10 ACC Northridge Campus, 11928 Stonehollow Dr.
- 07/22/10 Target Arboretum, 10107 Research Blvd.



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These programs are funded through the Texas Auto Burglary Theft Prevention Authority, a division of the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, to reduce auto theft and burglary of vehicles in the State of Texas.

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